

Audiences Continue to Thrill At 'Gigi,' Run Wins Extension

Chapel Theatre's current production of "Gigi," the French comedy by Anita Loos adapted from the novel by Colette, is many shows rolled into one.

First, is the play itself, which stars the famous French Bombshell, Fifi D'Orsay. This is the first time in Chapel Theatre's history that a professional actress appears in a production, and she has caused

tremendous excitement for all concerned since her arrival at Chapel.

So amusing and entertaining is this production that it was announced "Gigi" would be held over for two weeks more than the scheduled run.

Miss D'Orsay is so full of vitality, sparkling wit, and vivacious mannerisms and personality that it seems her energy is unbounding. To

quote the various members of the cast, "She tires out the youngest of us, and puts us all to shame."

Wherever she appears, Fifi is asked to come again, as everyone wants to see more of the famous D'Orsay gestures, and hear more of her delightful French accent, and refreshing, flowing, friendly conversation. She has truly captured the hearts of the area.

IT IS NO wonder the cast gives such a magnificent performance at each night's showing, since it has such inspiration from Miss D'Orsay. From beginning to end, each actor portrays his or her character as naturally and flowing as if they were living the parts. It is little wonder then that the audiences have been heard to remark they felt they were actually in the living

room with the group performing.

Kirby Gangel plays "Gigi" impishly and full of life as you would expect from a 16-year-old French girl to behave. Gladys Manu portrays the grandmother as aristocratically and proudly as one would picture a stately grandmother of the French period in the year 1900.

IT IS EASY to see why

Wayne Ward as Gaston could easily have been the dashing man-about-town of that French period, winning the hearts of the beautiful women of Paris. Suzanne Shinder is a scene-stealer as the flighty and sometimes tipsy stage-struck mother of "Gigi."

Charline French puts a spark of laughter in her scenes as the maid who tries to act as one of the family in-

stead of keeping her place as a servant, with her effervescent antics. Special thanks go to Tom Lowry who favored Chapel Theatre with portraying the part of the butler for this production. With his vast experience in leading roles, it is little wonder why Lowry is fondly referred to as "The Standby of Chapel Theatre."

Second of the highlights of "Gigi" is the group of Canadian girls who greet the male patrons with much enthusiasm as they arrive at the theater, plus doing their popular Canadian dance during the intermission on the Veranda of the theater. They include Peggy Bean, Barbara and Judy Simonson, Terry Masonheimer, and Sharon Wickstrom, presented by Barbara School of Dance.

Last, but by no means least, the audiences are given the final treat of the evening, Miss D'Orsay makes her curtain speech after the show. Posing the gracious person she is, Miss D'Orsay commences to praise sincerely the production crew. They work diligently backstage and are usually the unsung heroes who construct the sets, manipulate the furniture and scenery during the scene changes, set props in order, and work sound and lighting. Don Gish, director of "Gigi" is highly commended by Miss D'Orsay, as is Steve Sands who designed the sets.

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Musical Tent Show Scheduled

"Come one, come all, and bring your friends to the biggest show in Torrance" is the song Los Cancioneros are shouting to the tent tops these days.

No, you didn't mis-read this. Los Cancioneros are again, trying the unique and different for the entertainment of the community and friends. The Singers have arranged to have a large tent put up back of the Benstead Plunge in Torrance Civic Center on Torrance Boulevard and it is here that the next show "Cancioneros Carusel" will be given on Friday and Saturday nights, June 1, 2 and 8, 9. Curtain time will be 8 p.m.

WITH A CAST headed by guest star Laird Brooks Schmidt, the world's only one-man group thinker, and director Lyle Heck, Los Cancioneros will present a program of music, melodrama and vaudeville for easy listening on a June evening. There will be selections by the chorus from current Broadway shows such as "West Side Story," "Milk and Honey" and "Gypsy" plus the arresting rhythms of Afro-Cuban songs and Negro spirituals.

Among other acts scheduled for appearance are the lesser known but very talented characters C-note Sally, Miss-oo-oo-gle, Lanolin Turner, the Twisters, the Chicago Fright Flock and a "do-it-yourself" Gilbert and Sullivan operetta.

TICKETS AT \$1.50 each will go on sale May 14 and ticket chairman Marjorie George, FR 5-5795 or her assistant, Ann McLean, TE 5-9487 will take your order. You may also purchase tickets from any member of Los Cancioneros or at the box office before each performance.

Since this entertainment is designed for everyone to enjoy, Los Cancioneros suggest you arrange now to meet your friends at the green and white striped tent and see the show.

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